

The Columbus Courier

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No. 36

Sheriff D. B. Stephens Slain

Dwight B. Stephens, for the past twelve years sheriff of Luna county, with residence at Deming, one of the best known peace officers in the Southwest, was shot and killed Sunday afternoon near Rincon, Dona Ana county, in a battle with five prisoners who a few hours previous had effected a sensational jail break at Deming.

According to reports of battle between sheriff's posse and the fleeing prisoners, Stephens was slain before he had a chance to fire a shot, a bullet from a rifle in the hands of one of the prisoners, fired at close range, entering his right shoulder and passing through his lungs, causing almost instant death. He fell forward, his cocked gun being found under his body.

Buck Sevier, a member of the posse, was shot in the head, but not seriously wounded, the bullet grazing his skull. Joe Cranston, one of the escaped prisoners, was killed during the fight between the officers and criminals, and J. O. Starr, another member of the gang, badly wounded. Three other prisoners escaped under the rain of loaded bullets from guns of the possemen, who then, for the time being, turned their attention to the two victims of the posse, Stephens and Sevier.

The two prisoners concerned in the battle, made their escape Sunday morning from the Deming jail after making City Marshall Tabor a prisoner, taking a number of guns and ammunition from the arsenal and securing a Ford automobile from a local garage. They fled in the direction of Rincon and were soon followed by a posse headed by Sheriff Stephens.

The prisoners who escaped were Francisco Asencio, charged with murder; J. O. Starr and C. Schmidt, alleged burglars; W. Dauby, alleged forger, and Joe Cranston, a vagrant.

City Marshall Tabor entered the jail and Schmidt, asked him the privilege of going to the corridor. The door was unlocked and he entered the hallway. Schmidt soon returned to his cell and asked the officer to unlock it so he could enter. As Tabor started to unlock the door Schmidt pinned his hands behind him and the other prisoners hurried to his assistance. The officer was thrown to the floor and later locked in the cell. His revolver was taken as was \$5 in currency.

The five men then unlocked the cells of the jail and invited the other prisoners to accompany them, but this they declined to do. Hurrying to the National Guard arsenal nearby the five men secured rifles and ammunition, as well as revolvers.

One of the men then called up the garage and asked the proprietor to send a machine to the jail fully provided with gasoline and tires for a long trip. The prisoner stated that the sheriff wanted the car to take a sick prisoner to Paywood Springs. The ruse worked.

D. O. Snodgrass, one of the proprietors of the garage, drove a car to the jail and was at once admitted. He was covered with revolvers, held by the five men and locked in a cell with Tabor. The telephone wires were cut and the five men entered the automobile.

It is said Cranston did not want to enter the machine, but as he was the only man in the party who could operate a car he was told that if he did not consent to drive them he would be shot.

About an hour later a Mexican woman whose husband was a prisoner in the jail, called Tabor and Snodgrass told her to notify the sheriff of the escape of the prisoners. She immediately called at the sheriff's house and a posse was quickly formed and chase was started. Automobiles were secured and a number of machines in which members of the Deming company of National Guard, deputies and civilians rode, took up the pursuit.

While they were eating lunch among the foothills a mile north-east of Rincon, shortly before 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon the five escaped prisoners were discovered unexpectedly by the posse headed by Sheriff Stephens. The members of the posse had stopped their machine to make a tour of the country when they suddenly ran onto the fugitives near their car, eating lunch. The bandits were on a sharp bluff above and immediately opened fire on the posse.

In the fighting that followed the sheriff was killed, Buck Sevier was wounded in the head by one of the bandits, Joe Cranston, one of the escaped prisoners was killed, and J. O. Starr, another member of the gang, badly wounded. The other three men escaped.

Reinforced by additional posses from Deming and a posse headed by Sheriff Felipe Lucero, of Dona Ana county, the three fleeing prisoners were hunted through Sunday night and Monday and reports were that they all probably would be recaptured.

The body of Sheriff Stephens was taken to Deming. The dead officer was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio, coming to Southwest New Mexico in 1896, engaging in the cattle business in what was then Grant county. He was first appointed sheriff in 1904 to fill out the unexpired time of Sheriff W. N. Foster, and in November, 1905, was elected

The Good Old World

Some people knock the poor old world,
And say it's getting worse;
Some long for golden gates impeared,
As per the scripture verse:
But this world is what you make it,
And despite old Adam's fall,
Somehow it seems a good old world
To live in, after all.

There may be lots of shadders here,
And sorrow all around,
But if you are looking for good cheer,
There's plenty to be found;
There's the music of the waters,
And the bobolink's glad call,
And somehow, it's a good old world
To live in, after all.

Of all God's creatures man alone
Is sad and discontent,
And seems to think he ought to own
The whole big firmament.
The birds and bees and butterflies,
And beasts and things that crawl
Believe that it's a good old world
To live in, after all.

—Selected

Jack-Denton

George E. Jack and Miss Jesse Denton, both of Columbus, went to Deming Wednesday and were united in the bonds of matrimony. The bride has resided on a homestead a short distance from town for the past several months and she and the groom are well and favorably known throughout this section. The Courier extends congratulations.

For Sale:—Horses, harness and wagon; Agricultural implements and household goods.—C. L. Hallock, Sr.

sheriff, filling the position ever since. He is survived by a wife and several children. Possessed of a genial disposition and splendid courage, he was a man with a wide circle of friends and his death is deeply deplored.

Several years ago Sheriff Stephens figured in a pitched battle with several prisoners, who had broken jail at Deming, and two of his deputies were killed at that time. He escaped a like fate in a miraculous way.

Sunday School Conference Mar. 8th

The Rev. Edw. D. Raley, Secretary of the Sunday School Association in Arizona and New Mexico will be with us in Columbus on March 8th, for meetings in the afternoon and evening. All who are interested in Sunday School work are urged to remember this date and plan to attend all the meetings. We believe that all in the community should be interested in the religious education for which the Sunday School stands, and we shall look for a loyal support of these meetings and a good attendance. This time will be an opportunity for parents as well as Sunday School workers.

Church Services

Services will be held at the M. E. church next Sunday as follows: Sunday School 9:45 Morning worship 11 o'clock The pastor will occupy the pulpit, preaching on the theme—"The Meaning of Temptation". The meeting of the E. L. at 6:45 p. m. Leader Mr. Romey; topic: "The Gold of God". Evening service at 7:30. All cordially invited. Mid-week prayer service: Thursday evening at 7:30.

Troops To Deming.

Troop E and the Machine Gun Troop 13th Cavalry, under command of Captain Ryan, left for Deming Monday to take part in the Cattleman's Convention.

There will be the regular monthly business meeting of the Ladies Aid at the home of R. W. Elliott, Wednesday, March 1. All the members of the Aid are urged to attend.

For Sale:—90 feet 3 inch black pipe. Inquire at this office.

To Hold Farmers' Short Course

In response to requests from practically all the important farming communities of the county, A. C. Cooley, superintendent of the extension department of the New Mexico College of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts, will send a force from his department. He has also invited R. L. Bainer of the Santa Fe system and R. S. Trumbell of the Southwestern railroad, both agricultural demonstrators of recognized ability, to assist in conducting an agricultural short course, which is to begin Monday February 28 and continue for one week. Prof. Cooley will handle the subject of horticulture, Mr. Bainer will discuss livestock and crops; Prof. Latta will talk about dairying, and Prof. Trumbell will address the farmers on subjects appropriate to local needs.

The tentative itinerary is as follows:

Red Mountain, Monday Feb 28; Capitol Dome, Tuesday Feb 29; Columbus and Waterloo, Wednesday March 1; Myodusa and Cambray, Thursday March 2; Mimbres (Old Town), Friday March 3; Mountain View, Saturday March 4.

The various district school houses will be the meeting centers. Local persons, including school children, will be on the programs. John Hund Prof. W. S. Ellison, instructor of agriculture in the Luna County High School, State Representative S. J. Smith, and others will present topics of interest.

The Courier Receives Compliment

The following letter from H. A. Lane, the new secretary of the Deming Chamber of Commerce is self explanatory. Columbus is ever ready to work with the county seat in any undertaking for the development of the country, and it will be with a pleasure that we co-operate with the Deming Chamber of Commerce secretary. The letter follows:

Deming, New Mexico,
February 21, 1916
G. E. Parks, Editor
Courier, Columbus, N. M.
Dear Sir:—

I want to congratulate you on the fine editorial on New Mexico that I saw in your last issue of the Courier. I am in hopes to be able to go to Columbus sometime in the near future and meet you personally. I believe that if we will work together for the common good of Luna County that we may be able to accomplish considerable. So lets get together, do all that we can. Keep me posted on what is being done in development work, and I will try to send you a weekly letter telling of the work being done up here towards helping the county.

Hoping to meet you soon, we are,

Very truly yours,
Deming Chamber of Commerce
H. A. Lane
Secretary

The Epworth League gave a Colonial party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler Calhoun, Monday evening, February 21. There was a large attendance and everybody had a good time.

Wanted:—A farmer with team, to farm prepared land on shares. Plenty of water.—L. M. Carl.

The Twelve Trump club will meet at Mooreview Tuesday, February 29, at 2 o'clock, instead of Friday, March 3d.

Soldier Commits Suicide

Private Shaffer, of Troop K, 13th Cavalry committed suicide Tuesday evening by shooting himself with a U. S. service rifle, death resulting instantly. The remains were shipped to his old home in the east, Thursday. No reason is known for the act.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Greenwood, P. K. Lemmon, Lee A. Riggs and several others attended the Cattle Men's Convention in Deming first of the week. They were also present at the last sad rites of the late Sheriff Dwight B. Stephens.

Lee Retains Championship.

Jimmy Lee of Troop F easily defended his title against Kid Tucker of Troop L. Lee won in the first round by a clean knockout. This is the second victory for Lee in less than two months, and we hope that he will have the best of luck in the future. Lee landed about 6 or 8 times before his opponent knew what happened, and he was knocked out before he got started, a hard left to the face and a rapid rain of rights and lefts to the solar plexus done the work.

About Completed.

The troops have about completed their temporary quarters and the camp looks like a small city as a result. They are now building a large structure on the west side of the grade road, this will be the largest building in the camp and will be used for the officers club, Major Frank Tompkins has charge of the construction.

Waterloo Items

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Carter have a brand new twelve pound baby boy.

Dick Doby has a position with the moving picture theatre at Columbus, and expects to move there shortly.

Prof. F. F. Nickle of Coombs spent Saturday and Sunday with the Pierces.

Messames Haley and Bliss of Mountainview were calling on Waterloo friends Sunday.

Mrs. J. M. Holloway is building a new room on her residence.

Chas. Mayfield went to Columbus Sunday.

S. C. Pierce went to Iola Monday and bought an Eclipse windmill from Mr. Rambo.

W. B. Stoddard, of Brooklyn, New York, left Sunday for Los Angeles, after a ten days visit at the Carter home.

The character dance last Saturday night was the most successful entertainment the social club has ever held. Some of the costumes were quite elaborate, all were clever and original. Many guests were present from Columbus, Iola, Deming and Mountainview, and of course all Waterloo was there.

Business Chance

On account of my health I will rent to a reliable party my boot, shoe, harness, furniture etc., repair shop for six months, with privilege of leasing for additional six months. The shop is centrally located and the work is really more than one man can handle. Will lease shop and house furnished or unfurnished. A good opportunity for a man that can do the work.—W. C. Miller, Columbus, N. M.

WHEN IN NEED
of anything in the line of General
Merchandise, Shoes, Hats or Cloth-
ing

CALL ON
SAM RAVEL
HE CAN FILL YOUR ORDER.